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PATENT  
2173-0120P

*Ans*  
9/23/00

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ENDO, Keiji et al

Appl. No.: NEW Group: UNKNOWN

Filed: June 9, 2000 Examiner: UNKNOWN

For: MUTANT ALPHA-AMYLASES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

June 9, 2000

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

**CLAIM 5:** (Amended) A mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase obtained by introducing a mutation into an  $\alpha$ -amylase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or an  $\alpha$ -amylase having a homology of at least 70% to said amino acid sequence with at least two kinds of

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